OIPE JC16
MAR 14 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

FIG. 2 (prior art)

SYSTEMS DATABASE 200

```
SYSTEM A
        PATCHES INSTALLED
                PATCH_5
                PATCH_8
        FILESET FS1
                FILE A
                FILE B
                * * *
                FILE F
        FILESET FS2
                FILE J
                FILE K
                * * *
                FILE P

SYSTEM B
        * * *

* * *
```

FIG. 3 (prior art)

PATCHES DATABASE 300

```
* * *
PATCH_5
        FILESET FS1 (FILE A)
PATCH_8
        FILESET FS2 (FILE K)
PATCH_6
        FILESET FS1 (FILE A, FILE F)
        FILESET FS2 (FILE K, FILE P)
* * *
```

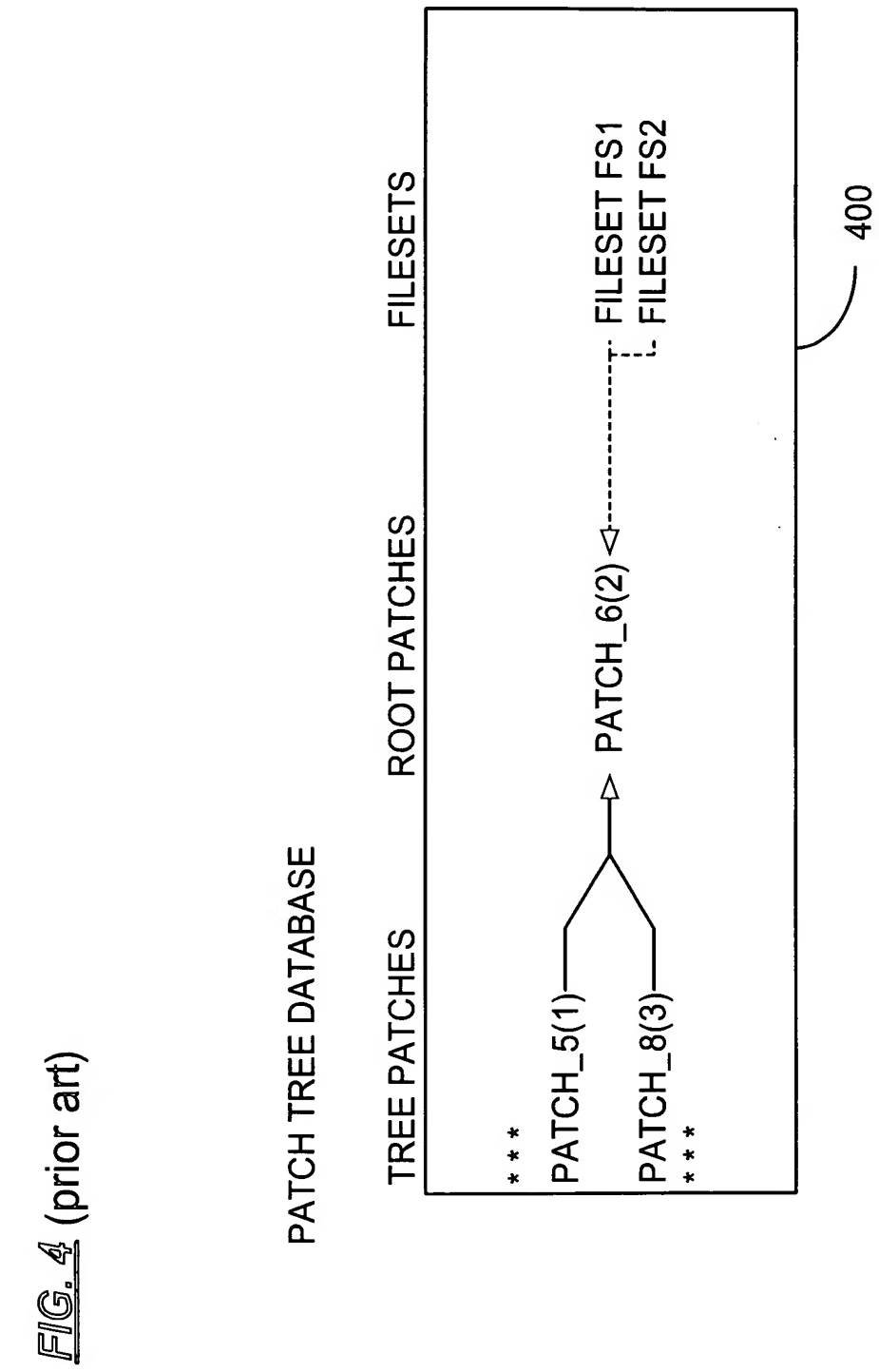


FIG. 4 (prior art)

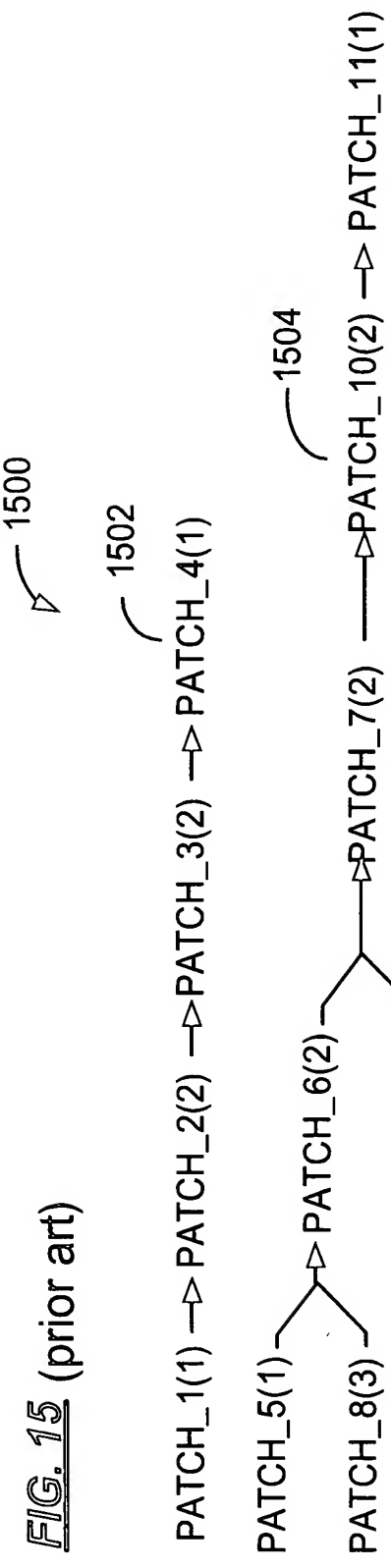
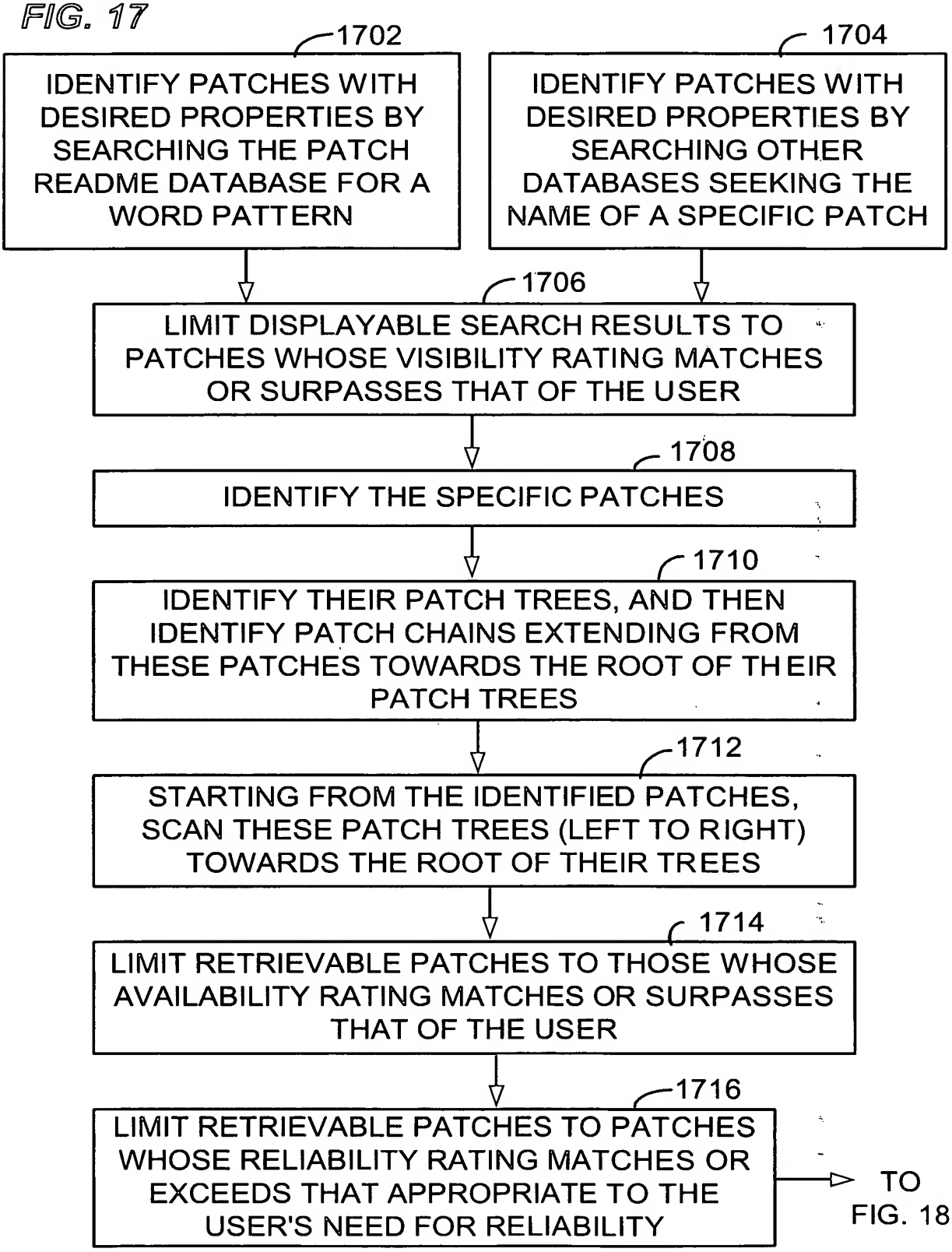


FIG. 15 (prior art)

FIG. 17


1702
IDENTIFY PATCHES WITH DESIRED PROPERTIES BY SEARCHING THE PATCH README DATABASE FOR A WORD PATTERN
1704
IDENTIFY PATCHES WITH DESIRED PROPERTIES BY SEARCHING OTHER DATABASES SEEKING THE NAME OF A SPECIFIC PATCH
1706
LIMIT DISPLAYABLE SEARCH RESULTS TO PATCHES WHOSE VISIBILITY RATING MATCHES OR SURPASSES THAT OF THE USER
1708
IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC PATCHES
1710
IDENTIFY THEIR PATCH TREES, AND THEN IDENTIFY PATCH CHAINS EXTENDING FROM THESE PATCHES TOWARDS THE ROOT OF THEIR PATCH TREES
1712
STARTING FROM THE IDENTIFIED PATCHES, SCAN THESE PATCH TREES (LEFT TO RIGHT) TOWARDS THE ROOT OF THEIR TREES
1714
LIMIT RETRIEVABLE PATCHES TO THOSE WHOSE AVAILABILITY RATING MATCHES OR SURPASSES THAT OF THE USER
1716
LIMIT RETRIEVABLE PATCHES TO PATCHES WHOSE RELIABILITY RATING MATCHES OR EXCEEDS THAT APPROPRIATE TO THE USER'S NEED FOR RELIABILITY
TO FIG. 18